(b) if so, the details thereof, programme-wise;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in its report for the year ended on March 31, 1996 has also indicated the State Government for violating the Central guidelines; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (d) Reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General for the year ended 31st March, 1996 No. 3 (Civi)l and No. 4 (Civil) in respect of Government of West Bengal have raised a number of points arising from audit of financial transactions, inter-alia of the departments of the Government of West Bengal as well as the results of audit in respect of financial assistance given to local bodies. Some of these points relate to the implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

These reports of CAG have been laid before the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 10.6.1997. The CAG reports are now subject matters of consideration of the West Bengal Public Accounts Committee.

The West Bengal Government have reported that two cases of public interest litigations in respect of this subject matter are pending in the Honourable High Court of West Bengal and the matter is sub-judice.

[English]

Revised Rate of Royalty on Minerals

*38. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced the revised rates of royalty on minerals recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised rates of royalty is much less than demanded by the Government of Gujarat on various minerals produced in the State;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have considered further revision of the rates of royalty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214 (E) dated 11.4.97 revising the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 8.5.97.

(c) Revision of Royalty rates on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) was effected on the basis of recommendations of the Study Group constituted for the purpose, wherein the State Govt. of Gujarat was also represented. The Study Group had detailed consultations with the State Govts., mineral industry and other agencies. Investment promotion, stability of royalty regime, parity with the international rates and revenue gain to the State Govts. have been the basic criteria for the revision of the royalty rates.

(d) and (e) As per provision of section 9(3) of the MM (R&D) Act, 1957, the royalty rates cannot be enhanced more than once during any period of three years.

[Translation]

Selection of Programmes

*39. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any prescribed norms/system for the selection of programmes to be telecast and broadcast by Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines issued for the selection of programmes in this regard;

(d) whether some changes are contemplated by the Government to make the existing system transparent and corruption free; and

(3) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Programmes received from outside producers are scrutinised by a Committee to assess the suitability as per programme requirements and in conformity to the Broadcast/Telecast Code. The following broad criteria are adopted for selection